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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JUL 31 2008****Amendment to the Specification:**

On page 3, please replace the second full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention fulfills the function with a docking buffer with ~~the characteristics of claim 1~~ an elastic damping element between two U-shaped parts made of hard, shock-resistant material, the limbs of which are located next to one another and can be displaced in relation to one another. The limbs of the first U-shaped part are convergent around an angle deviating from 90° to a first base plate and the limbs of the second U-shaped part are convergent around an angle deviating from 90° to a second base plate, whereby the opening widths between the ends of the limbs and the sizes of the angles are selected so that the limbs of the first U-shaped part enclose the limbs of the second U-shaped part.

On page 3, please replace the third full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

Advantageous forms of the ~~invented~~ inventive docking buffer ~~result from the characteristics of claims 2 to 5~~ are discussed below.

On page 5, please replace the fourth full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

On the lower end of the U-shaped part 1 there is a supportive device, for instance, punched sheet-metal plating or a grid to stop both the damping element 3 and the mobile U-shaped part 2 from falling and from collecting of humidity, in particular rainwater.